

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]  
DD NO.

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR 26 JAN 52

SUBJECT Chinese Communist Literary Writing and Writers

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1C  
[REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS.  
LISTED BELOW:

DATE OF INFO.

25X1X

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

1. Literature and the drama are systematically and thoroughly exploited by the Chinese Communists to convey their propaganda to the people.
2. Attending the theatre has become a routine activity with all organized groups such as schools, government workers, labor unions, and peasant organizations. The plays generally have little plot, but the sharp and direct approach to the issue, usually social injustice and imperialism, carries a powerful impact. The general technique is to present the popular issues of social injustice with a direct emotional approach, then to follow with the program of the new regime as the logical solution. The impact is strong enough so that sometimes even older professors weep in their seats while watching the new drama, an unusual event in the pre-Communist drama.
3. SHU Shieh-yu is a literary writer whose pen name is LAO Shieh. In the early 1930's he was very popular among the younger generation with his novels of incisive social analysis and humor such as LAO Chang's Philosophy and Mr. Tse-yueh. He is the president of the Association of Literary Workers, a strategic post in the propaganda machine of the new regime.
4. SHU has been producing plays aimed at arousing feelings against the social injustice of the old social order, and gaining support for the new regime as the cure for the evil. He is very popular, and with the older leftist writers like MAO Tun and TING Ling taking political posts and no longer producing in the literary field, SHU is now being relied upon as an important literary figure to appeal to the people and especially the intelligentsia.
5. SIEN Chung-wen is another young writer with great skill, but his trouble in achieving the mental transformation to the new setting is so great that he has made at least one suicide attempt. However, since the Communists do not have writers of his ability and popularity they placed him in the Revolutionary University near the Summer Palace in order to achieve the thought transformation for him. He recently told a close friend that they could not make a writing machine out of him.

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-17-AUG-1978			

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